

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH PRESS AUGUST 25, 1977

EDITORIAL IN IRISH PRESS AUGUST 25, 1977 UNDER HEADING MUDDLED
DIMLOMACY FOLLOWS:

JUST WHO IS CONDUCTING AMERICAN POLICY - PRESIDENT CARTER OR THE
STATE DEPARTMENT? THE QUESTION IS POSED BY THE STATEMENT LAST
NIGHT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, MR. JODY POWELL, THAT
THE STATE DEPARTMENT, "WITHOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S KNOWLEDGE," HAD
BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WITH
A VIEW TO FINDING OUT WHETHER THERE WAS ANY USEFUL APPROACH THAT
COULD BE MADE TO ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN
IRELAND.

WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A HIGH POINT IN IRISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAS
NOW SUNK TO A LEVEL WHICH HASN'T BEEN SO LOW SINCE THE FAMOUS
"AMERICAN NOTE" SCARE OF THE WORLD WAR 2 ERA. JUST WHAT IS THE
EXPLANATION FOR THE MUDDLE AND MISUNDERSTANDING? OR TO PUT IT
BLUNTLY HAVE THE BRITISH SUCCEEDED IN ABORTING THIS INITIATIVE?

FOR DAYS PAST NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE
REPORTED AS A FACT THAT MR. CARTER WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT STATE-
MENT ON THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE TO THE NORTHERN CRISIS, AND THAT
IT WILL INCLUDE A COMMITMENT TO POWER-SHARING, WITH A PROMISE OF
SUBSTANTIAL AMERICAN FINANCIAL INVESTMENT AS AN INCENTIVE TO THE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 02040 251337Z

WARRING FACTIONS IN THE NORTH TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

THEN, EARLY YESTERDAY, AFTER HAVING TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT,
MR. POWELL ANNOUNCES: "THERE IS NO SPEECH; THERE IS NO INITIATIVE;
NO DRAFT SPEECHES HAVE GONE TO LONDON OR DUBLIN." NOW WE ARE TOLD
THAT IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN DUBLIN AND LONDON, THE
STATE DEPARTMENT WAS ACTING WITHOUT MR. CARTER'S KNOWLEDGE. THE

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, MAY BE IN CHINA - BUT WHERE DOES THAT SORT OF DIPLOMACY LEAVE THE REST OF US?

MR. POWELL, IT MAY BE NOTED, NOW SAYS THE STATE DEPARTMENT "WAS SENDING" THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTIONS OF "A VERY LIMITED NATURE" ABOUT POSSIBLE STEPS THE UNITED STATES COULD TAKE. IF THIS IS ALL THERE IS TO THIS WORST-KEPT SECRET, THEN A MOUNTAIN HAS BEEN IN LABOUR AND PRODUCED A VERY SMALL MOUSE INDEED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PLACED OUR GOVERNMENT IN A DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION BECAUSE NO GOVERNMENT IN DUBLIN WOULD WANT TO BE SEEN TO BE AT ODDS WITH WASHINGTON BY SPEAKING OUT PUBLICLY ON THIS ISSUE.

OF COURSE THE MERE SUGGESTION OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN WHAT BRITAIN INSISTS ON REGARDING AS A PURELY INTERNAL UNITED KINGDOM PROBLEM HAS SENT WHITEHALL AND FLEET STREET INTO A TIZZY, NOT TO MENTION WHAT ARE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE WASP (WHITE ANGLO-SAXON PROTESTANT) FRATERNITY, LONG SUSPECTED OF STILL BEING ABLE TO EXERCISE AN INFLUENCE OVER THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

BUT WHY, ONE MIGHT ASK, SHOULD CARTER INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA AND OTHER TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES BE WELCOMED BY BRITAIN - THEN FROWNED ON SO FAR AS NORTHERN IRELAND IS CONCERNED? AND LET IT NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THERE ARE MANY TIMES MORE PEOPLE OF IRISH DESCENT IN THE UNITED STATES THAN THERE ARE IN IRELAND, NORTH AND SOUTH. IT MATTERS LITTLE WHETHER THERE ARE DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS; THEY SHARE A LOVE OF THE LAND OF THEIR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 02040 251337Z

ANCESTORS AND THEY WILL PRAY, AS ALL MEN OF GOODWILL ON THIS ISLAND WILL PRAY, THAT THERE WILL BE A CARTER INTERVENTION, A PLAN, A SPEECH, AN INITIATIVE, OR BEST OF ALL, AN UNCOMPROMISING DEMAND THAT BRITAIN SHOULD SHOULD HER RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE NORTH.KRENE

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